



TANK RAISING: The Water Department lifted this million-gallon tank to the top of a concrete tower on Wednesday. Because of the "bubble" design, more of the water in this tank will be available to residents. The tank will replace a 50-year-old standpipe style tank.

Photos by Josh Cutler

New Birch Street water tank rises above Duxbury

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Residents all over town will soon be noticing better water pressure because of a new tank on Birch Street, according to Water Superintendent Paul Anderson.

The new tank replaces a standpipe unit first installed in 1958. Although both tanks have the same capacity — 1 million gallons — Anderson said the town could only use about 80,000 gallons in the old tank.

"You have to keep the majority of the tank full to keep pressure on the system," he said. "The difference with the new tank is that we're going to have a million gallons, but it's going to be elevated."

The new tank is part of a larger \$2.8 million project that will revamp the town's wa-



ter system. Anderson said the department will be installing pressure reducing valves on Elm Street and West Street, essentially creating two separate water pressure zones around town. This, along with the new tank, will provide around 19 pounds per square inch of pressure to the water system, Anderson said. Residents in the Birch Street area, along with the northwest side of town, should see better water pressure.

"There are some areas out

there that have very poor pressure," he said. "The system as a whole is going to get better ... It will also help a great deal with fire protection."

Because the new tank is essentially a bowl sitting atop a concrete tower, maintenance will be less, according to Anderson, because only the bowl has to be maintained.

The new system is scheduled to be online in September. Now that the tank is done, the rest of the project involves installing the valves and work at the town's five well sites.

"This is a huge step forward for the residents of Duxbury," said Anderson, who credited former DPW Director Tom Daley for helping push the project though. He said he has been working on the project since he was hired five years ago.